**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Please publish in October 2017 editions***

***CALENDAR NOTICE: The Gerrymander 5K Walk/Run will follow the 10th and 11th Congressional District line in West Asheville, and is hosted by the League of Women Voters of Asheville-Buncombe County. The event will begin at The Admiral, 400 Haywood Road, at 1 pm on November 4, 2017. The walk/run will conclude at The W.A.L.K. between 2 and 3 pm.***

***To learn more and register for the event, go to***[***www.lwvab.org/gerrymander-5k***](http://www.lwvab.org/gerrymander-5k)

**Gerrymander 5K Walk/Run Hosted by the League of Women Voters**

(November 4, 2017)

The Gerrymander 5K Walk/Run is taking place in West Asheville on November 4, tracing the border of Congressional Districts 10 and 11 as it splits the West Asheville community and the former Asheville-inclusive district. The event — and the dividing line issue — drew mention recently in an NBC news article, [“They’re Still Drawing Crazy-Looking Districts: Can’t It Be Stopped?”](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/they-re-still-drawing-crazy-looking-districts-can-t-it-n803051)

The gerrymandered districts of North Carolina are hot-topics of national discussion. Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer was also recently interviewed by VICE news for an episode titled [“Divide and Conquer”](http://www.hbo.com/vice/episodes/05/80-80-divide-and-conquer-and-crackdown-in-honduras/synopsis.html) that aired on HBO on September 22. And last year, the film “Democracy for Sale” by Zach Galifianakis was aired all across the state to bring light to how gerrymandering, along with other factors, has transformed North Carolina.

As Arnold Schwarzenegger said, “Gerrymandering is gerrymandering. If it’s partisan gerrymandering, if it’s racial gerrymandering, it has to stop because it’s unfair to the voters.”

The line runs down the middle of Haywood Road before meandering down side streets, causing neighbors to find themselves in different Congressional voting districts —one end or one side of a street in the 10th, the other in the 11th. Participants of the Gerrymander 5k will have the opportunity to interact, on a (literal) grass-roots level, with gerrymandering.

In 2001, Asheville was entirely in one district, but when maps were redrawn in 2011, Asheville was split in two. When the 2011 maps were deemed racially motivated by the Supreme Court, the North Carolina General Assembly was tasked with drawing new maps. Unfortunately, the new maps — which did not change Asheville’s split districts — are also being questioned, and the state’s districting problems are far from resolved.

The League of Women Voters has long held an advocacy position supporting nonpartisan redistricting. To highlight the need for fairer districting, the Asheville-Buncombe County chapter is hosting the Gerrymander 5K to highlight the issue for the public and give individuals and families a chance to “walk the line.”

The Gerrymander 5K will begin at The Admiral, 400 Haywood Road, at 1 pm on Saturday, November 4. From there, participants will follow the district dividing line west as it goes down the middle of Haywood Road, zig-zagging onto side streets, returning to Haywood Road, and then travelling down Louisiana Avenue. The participants will reverse course just before reaching Patton Avenue and return to gather at The W.A.L.K on 401 Haywood Road. There will be an after-party at The W.A.L.K. including guest speakers, prizes, and the ability to learn more about how to end gerrymandering in North Carolina. The event will conclude at 3:30PM. To learn more or to register, go to [www.lwvab.org/gerrymander-5k.](http://www.lwvab.org/gerrymander-5k.)

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